



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION FOR BROOKHAVEN 'SAFETY TOWN' PASSES KEY PANEL

Washington, DC—Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) today announced that \$1 million to build a 'Safety Town' in Holtsville has passed its biggest hurdle. Bishop worked to include the funding in the Fiscal Year '04 Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill, which recently passed the House Appropriations Committee.

'Safety Town' would be a replica of a miniature village with an educational facility on two acres of land at the Holtsville Ecology site. This creates a realistic atmosphere for children to navigate in bicycles and small electric cars. This innovative initiative would teach children crucial lessons in the importance of transportation safety. Brookhaven has more than 40,000 elementary age children who could benefit from the skills that will be taught at Safety Town.

"For 30 years, Safety Town has taught crucial transportation safety skills to children in Nassau County and helped save lives," Bishop said. "We need to bring this program to Suffolk."

The project is similar to the 'Safety Town' in Nassau County, which is located at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow and has been in operation since 1972. A 10-year study conducted in Nassau County, showed 42 percent of all Nassau county students have graduated from 'Safety Town.' In that period, only one in 491 students who were Safety Town graduates had a bicycle crash. For those who did not attend, the ratio was one in 39.

"Safety Town will make a real difference to protect our children," Bishop said. "Given the unacceptable rate of accidents on our roads, we must do more to promote transportation safety."

Bishop pushed the Appropriations Committee for this provision to be included in the bill, which must now be passed by the House and Senate before it is signed by President Bush. However, this provision is expected to remain in the bill.

"We've passed the biggest hurdle, but I will continue to fight until we receive the funds to open Safety Town," Bishop said.

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